

GP-303275

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present Application. Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 8-14 stand allowed. Claim 3 has been canceled, and Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, leaving Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 for further consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent Claim 3, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

It is believed that the amendments made herein may be properly entered at this time, i.e., after final rejection, because the amendments do not require a new search or raise new issues and reduce issues for appeal. In particular, the claims as amended are believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Namaduri et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejection of Claim 1 has been rendered moot in view of the amendment thereto. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and thus is patentably distinguished from Namaduri for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Namuduri et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Namuduri in view of Munning et al (hereinafter "Munning"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 2 and 6 depend from Claim 1 and are patentably distinguished from the cited references for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of these rejections is hereby requested.

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It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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